1

VIZ TOP GRAPHIC NOVEL

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Cover Design / Viz Graphics
Editor / Satoru Fuji
Executive Editor / Seiji Horibuchi
Publisher / Masahiro Oga

Published by Viz Communications, Inc.
P.O. Box 77010, San Francisco, CA 94107

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First published by Shogakukan, Inc., in Japan
Editor-in-chief / Yonosuke Konishi
Executive Editor / Kazuki Tanaka

First English version coedited and copublished by
Eclipse Comics and Viz Communications

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
First Printing January 1991

KA-HOOM
DAMN YOU, BLOODY SEA! I WILL DEMOLISH YOU!
KA-HOOM
KA-HOOM

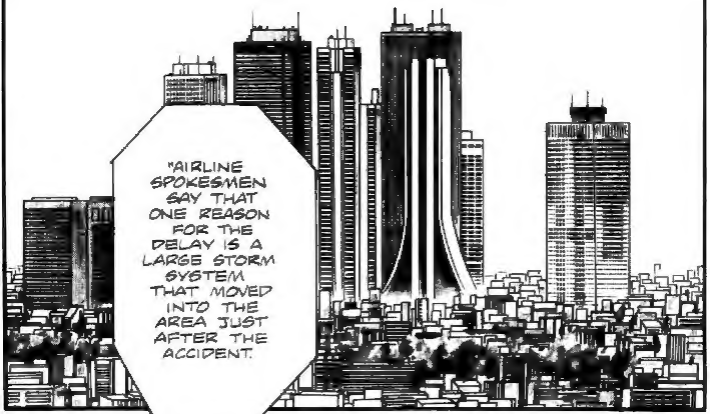
GRRR

SCENE 1

METAMORPHOSIS I

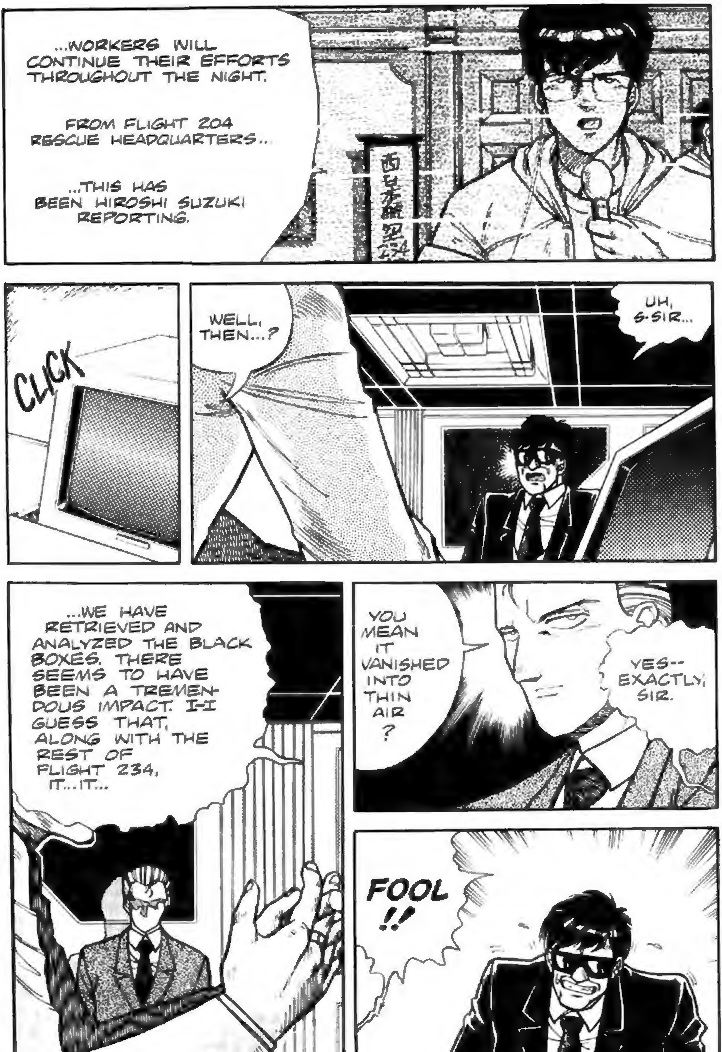
"ALMOST A WEEK HAS PASSED SINCE THE DECEMBER 15 CRASH OF WEST JAPAN AIRLINES FLIGHT 234 FROM SAPPORO TO TOKYO.

"THE CAUSE OF THE DISASTER OFF THE SANRIKU COAST HAS NOT YET BEEN DISCOVERED. A SALVAGE TEAM IS STILL SEARCHING THE WRECKAGE OF THE PLANE. THE CRUCIAL BLACK BOXES--THE KEYS TO THE INVESTIGATION--HAVE YET TO BE FOUND.



"AIRLINE SPOKESMEN SAY THAT ONE REASON FOR THE DELAY IS A LARGE STORM SYSTEM THAT MOVED INTO THE AREA JUST AFTER THE ACCIDENT.

"WHATEVER THE REASON, HOWEVER, THE LIVES OF 382 PASSENGERS HAVE BEEN SWEPT INTO THE SEA, A TRAGEDY THAT WILL NOT SOON BE FORGOTTEN."
GAK! HE'S FILTHY!
"IT IS HOPED THAT THE BODIES WILL BE RECOVERED AND THE CAUSE FOUND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE..."


...WORKERS WILL CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT.
FROM FLIGHT 204 RESCUE HEADQUARTERS..
..THIS HAS BEEN HIROSHI SUZUKI REPORTING.
CLICK
WELL, THEN...?
UH, S-SIR...
...WE HAVE RETRIEVED AND ANALYZED THE BLACK BOXES. THERE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN A TREMENDOUS IMPACT. I GUESS THAT, ALONG WITH THE REST OF FLIGHT 234, IT...IT...
YOU MEAN IT VANISHED INTO THIN AIR?
YES-- EXACTLY, SIR.
FOOL !!

"IT IS THE ULTIMATE PRODUCT OF THE BLOODY SEA'S PROJECT X...
"...OUR MASTERPIECE! SURELY IT IS NOT SO POORLY MADE AS TO SHATTER INTO PIECES AT A MERE EXPLOSION!"
TONO, SEND NUMBER 204!
YES, SIR...
I GIVE YOU THE COMMAND.

OH!
GET AWAY FROM ME! YOU'RE FILTHY!
..AND THAT'S WHAT HE SAID!
DO YOU THINK I'M YOUR BOYFRIEND?
NO-- I DON'T TREAT YOU LIKE THAT, SILLY
"WHAT IS THIS PLACE? WHERE AM I?
"WHY CAN'T I SEEM TO REMEMBER ANYTHING?"

THE PLANE CRASH!
I WAS ON MY WAY TO TOKYO!
"THEN, WHEN I CAME TO, I WAS IN THIS DIRTY CITY...
". DAMN.! HAVE I FORGOTTEN EVERYTHING?
Optical Striders
"WHY AM I HERE?
IF MY PLANE CRASHED, HOW DID I SURVIVE?
"I CAN'T REMEMBER A THING!!"
British

WHO AM I, TO HAVE SUCH A STRANGE BODY ?!
IS HE THE GUY?
...
THAT'S THE ONE, ALL RIGHT!
HEH, HEH, HEH
JUST AS I THOUGHT.

AND AFTER THAT, MITSUKO TOLD ME...
WHAK
EEYAH!
THAT HURT!
ARE YOU ALL R.GHT?
THAT PISSES ME OFF!
TH-THAT'S ALL RIGHT, R:SA...
HEY, JERK! CAN'T YOU EVEN SAY YOU'RE SORRY?! WHO DO YOU TH NK YOU ARE?!
NO! WE HAVE TO STAND UP TO CREEPS LIKE HIM!

A BOY.?
?!
I'M SORRY...
I SURE CAN'T TELL THAT FROM YOUR ATTITUDE!
THAT'S FINE RISA! DON'T LOOK FOR A FIGHT.
P
M

WELL, AREN'T YOU ANGRY? IT'S YOU WHO WAS HIT!
WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT, HUH?
"I'VE SEEN HIM SOMEWHERE.."
!!
WHO ARE YOU ?!

OUR CLASSMATE GODA HAS BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.
HEH HEH HEH.
HELLO..
IT'S BEEN THREE MONTHS SINCE I LAST SAW YOU..
ASUKA KANO!
!!
DO--
--DO YOU KNOW ME!?

SO AFTER MAKING LIKE A BEGGAR, YOU NOW PRETEND AMNESIA ?!
?!
I D.DN'T TH.NK YOU'D STOOP TO MAKING LIGHT OF AN OLD CLASSMATE
BUT THEN WHEN I'M THROUGH W.TH YOU, YOU'LL BE IN NO SHAPE FOR JOK.NG AROUND!
EEYAH!
WHAP

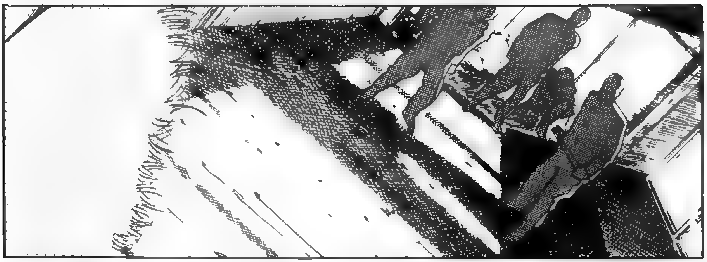
YEAH! I'M SURE!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THAT BOY WE SAW-- HE'S ASUKA KANO ONE OF THE SENIORS!
WHAT?! YOU MEAN THE PUNK WHO DROPPED OUT A WHILE AGO?
I'M SURE-- LET'S GO!
MUST FAMOUS AND LOVELY
WHERE ARE WE GOING?!
WE'VE GOT TO FIND HIM!

SLAMASHA!
YOU'VE GOT A TOUGH H DE, ASUKA!
BAM
BAM
HOW DO YOU LIKE THIS?
BAM
WHAT.
IT'S TRUE
KA-TOOM
KA-TOOM
KA-TOOM
TELL ME WHO I AM!
heh, heh, heh.
HE REALLY SEEMS TO HAVE FORGOTTEN EVERYTHING!
HOW CONVENIENT. MAYBE A BLOW TO THE HEAD WILL RESTORE HIS MEMORY!
WHAP!
UNH!!

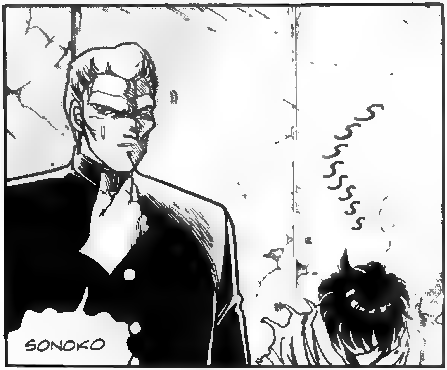
"WHY..?
"HOW DO THESE HIGH SCHOOL GUYS KNOW ME?
"AND WHY DO I HAVE TO GO THROUGH THIS?"
CRUNCH
!!
AND NOW
. FOR THE BIG FINISH!
heh, heh heh.
JUST HOLD STILL FOR GODA'S PUNCHES--
--YOU CAN REST AFTER A FEW OF YOUR RIBS ARE BROKEN.

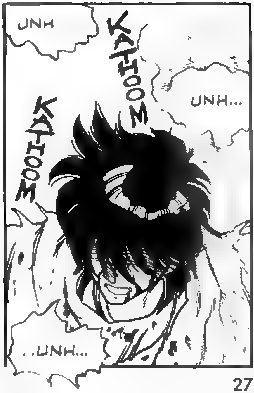
KATOOM
"N-NO..
THE FINAL BLOW..
KATOOM
KATOOM
"NO
KATOOM
"NO !!"
KATHOOM
KATHOOM
STOP !!
KA-TOOZ
KATOOM
GADOOM
GADOOM

SHUT UP!!
STOP!!!
WHO DARES ....?



PLEASE STOP..
RYUJ ..
TH S S CRAZY SONOKO !


SSSSSSSS
SONOKO


UNH
KYOOM
UNH...
KYOOM
..UNH...

...UNHH!!
...UNNH...
ASUKA
!!
UNH...
UUUNH...
"AAAGH!

GADOOM
XE--
-NON...
...
XENON
...
GADOOM
GADOOM
GADOOM
GRRRRRRRR
YOU'VE GOT A JOB TO DO, NUMBER 204.
YOUR NEXT TARGET IS.
W-WHO IS THE NEXT?
WHERE'S HE?

...IN
JAPAN...
IN
TOKYO
!!

"I REALLY DON'T REMEMBER!!"
SUUUOOP!
SPLASH!

"TELL ME WHO I AM!!"

GROOOO

HEAVY METAL WARRIOR

XENON™

STORY AND ART BY MASAOMI KANZAKI

1

VIZ
TOP
GRAPHIC
NOVEL

SCENE 2

METAMORPHOSIS II

ASUKA...KANO...
S THAT MY NAME?
IS THAT WHO I AM. ?
...HOW DID THOSE STUDENTS KNOW ME?
WHAT'S HIS NAME...?
RYUJI GODA ?
AND THE GIRL
...HER NAME WAS SONOKO ...?
DAMN IT !!

FOR AN INSTANT I CHANGED...
MY HANDS
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME ?
WHAM!
I WAS ON THE PLANE... THE ONE THAT CRASHED
WHO AM I ?
DAMN !
RRRIIIRRRP
DAMN !
WHAT THE HELL ARE THESE LINES ON MY BODY ?!
AM I EVEN A HUMAN BEING ?!

FOOL! NO MORE EXCUSES! A SCREW-UP IS A SCREW-UP!
JUST FIND HIM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE !
CLICK
HOW STUPID I CANNOT BELIEVE THEY WOULD ALLOW NUMBER 204 TO ESCAPE BEFORE WE ARRIVED
. THIS IS THE SECOND TIME SINCE WE CREATED ,T THAT NUMBER 204 HAS RETURNED TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD... THE LAST TIME WAS IN L.A. ..
THE SAME THING HAPPENED TWO YEARS AGO...
PARDON?

SURELY YOU REMEMBER THE MASS MURDERS IN L.A. TWO YEARS AGO? THIRTY-FIVE PEOPLE KILLED IN A WEEK- ALL BY THE SAME METHOD. CAUSED QUITE A STIR IN THE MEDIA.
A NASTY MESS, THAT. NUMBER 204.
YOU MEAN THE GUY WHO CHOPPED HIS VICTIMS INTO SO MANY PIECES THAT THE POLICE COULDN'T IDENTIFY THE CORPSES?
I-I SEE.
I DON'T REALLY CARE HOW MANY PEOPLE NUMBER 204 KILLS. BUT IT TAKES SO MUCH MONEY TO COVER IT UP
Y-YES
YES, SIR.
WHILE I LET THE OTHERS SEARCH FOR NUMBER 204, OUR GROUP WILL HAVE TO FIND XENON..

WELL, YESTERDAY SURE WAS AN EYE-OPENER !!
RISA
WELL I DIDN'T EXPECT IT, THAT'S ALL!
--AND YOU, SONOKO NITTA, DEMURE DAUGHTER OF THE EXECUTIVE MANAGER OF JAPAN DEVELOPMENT MACHINERY CORPORATION-- YOU TWO GREW UP TOGETHER ?!
I MEAN RYUJI GODA FIENDISH LEADER OF THAT DELINQUENT GANG OF CHEERLEADERS AT SUGAYAMA HIGH--A GUY EVEN GANGSTERS ARE SCARED TO CROSS--

I MEAN, LIKE WOW! I DON'T HAVE TO BE AFRAID OF ANYTHING AS LONG AS I'M WITH YOU!
ha, ha, ha...
RISA, QUIT BABBLING!
IT'S ONLY A JOKE! WHY CAN'T YOU JUST BLOW IT OFF?
SO THAT FILTHY GUY STARTED ROARING AND RAN OFF LIKE A MANIAC. YOU DON'T REALLY THINK THAT WAS ASUKA?!
YES I DO..
WELLLL, THAT WOULD EXPLAIN WHY RYUJI AND THOSE TROUBLE-MAKERS WERE THERE.
ASUKA KANO WAS THE ONLY GUY HERE AT SCHOOL WHO DIDN'T KISS UP TO RYUJI
BAD TREND.
..AND RYUJI COULDN'T LET IT CONTINUE. HE'S GOT TO HAVE EVERYONE UNDER HIS THUMB.

BESIDES, ASUKA'S SUCH A HUNK THAT RYUJI AND HIS GANG LOOK LIKE APES IN COMPARISON! OF COURSE, IF THE GIRLS HAD SEEN MR. PIGPEN YESTERDAY, HE'D BE CROSSED OFF ALL THE TOP TEN LISTS.
?!
SONOKO.. YOU CAN'T BE...
...ARE YOU IN LOVE WITH ASUKA ?!
MEETING ROOM
会議
WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT THAT AMNESIA BASTARD, BOSS ?
CHEER..LEADERS
応援団

THE FACT THAT HE HAD BEEN M SSING THREE MONTHS.. HIS CLOTHES THIS AMNESIA...
..NO MATTER HOW HARD I THINK ABOUT IT...
...I JUST CAN'T UNDERSTAND THESE THINGS !
BOSS !
I DON'T HAVE TO GO GET HIM MYSELF! BRING HIM TO ME!

2-B
IT'S TRUE, ISN'T IT? WELL, ISN'T IT?!
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME BEFORE?!
THAT'S WHY YOU RECOGNIZED HIM IN THOSE AWFUL RAGS!
.....
FRRITT
SNARL
OH PLEASE DON'T ABANDON ME, SONOKO!
.....
?
SONOKO ?

OH, RISA.. WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO HIM IN THOSE THREE MONTHS HE WAS MISSING ?
...WHY WAS HE WEARNG THOSE AWFUL CLOTHES...?
SOMOKO YOU
SOO
RISA.
Y-YEAH. ?
PLEASE! PLEASE COME WITH ME TO THAT PLACE WE WENT TO YESTERDAY !
THERE MUST BE A REASON...

..I'M SURE OF IT..
...A REASON I DON'T YET UNDERSTAND !
B-BUT..
ANYTHING!
I'LL DO ANYTHING I CAN FOR HIM..!
PLEASE, RISA!
PLEASE!
OKAY

M-MY BRAIN...
.SEEMS TO BE COMING OUT OF MY HEAD.
OH! HE'S A CAUCASIAN!
HE'S CUTE!
huhn
huhn
nuhn
AH!
KEY
WIRRICH

EXCUSE ME--ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
?!
HEH HEH HEH

OFF LIMITS
禁止
私有地
PRIVATE PROPERTY
OVER THERE!
HE'S OVER THERE!
HE'S IN HERE SOMEPLACE-- I KNOW IT!
BUT IS HE REALLY ASUKA?
WHAT A JOKE!
THE BOSS TOLD US TO BRING THIS GUY TO HIM
BUT BEFORE WE DO-- LET'S HAVE SOME FUN!
IT'S NO JOKE! FIND HIM QUICKLY!

DAMN! I DON'T SEE HIM!
KATOOK
KATOOK
KATOOK
KATOOK
KATOOK
KATOOK
THEY'RE GOING TO KILL ME!
THEY'RE GOING TO KILL ME THIS TIME!
I HAVE TO ESCAPE FROM HERE... SOMEHOW
SWOOOOSH

PIAZZ
GROOM
AAARGH!
OVER THERE!
IT'S STARTED!
heh. heh. heh
WE FOUND YOU!
THIS WAY!
RUSTLE
RUMBLE

WHAT ?
KAHOOM
KAHOOM
KAHOOM
WHAT GRUDGE DO YOU HOLD AGAINST ME?
HEH HEH HEH... YOU LOOK MISERABLE, ASUKA...
THERE'S NO GIRL TO RESCUE YOU THIS TIME!
TODAY WE'LL PLAY WITH YOU SLOWLY. HEH, HEH, HEH...
THAT'S ENOUGH!
GA DOOM
WHAT ?!
KRAKASH

WHA..?
WHAT HAPPENED ?!
nuuuh
CREEEE
nuuu
KRASH

SCENE 3

METAMORPHOSIS III

"THIS IS A TBS NEWS SPECIAL REPORT.
"FOUR PEOPLE WERE BRUTALLY MURDERED EARLIER THIS MORNING IN THREE CONSECUTIVE INCIDENTS IN SHIBUYA, YOYOGI, AND SHINJUKU."
uff
hff
uff
W-WAIT UP A SECOND, SONOKO! DON'T BE IN SUCH A RUSH! ASUKA WON'T RUN AWAY!
hff
I'M SORRY THAT I MADE YOU COME WITH ME, IT'S JUST THAT I SAW THE BOYS FROM RYUJI'S GANG LEAVE SCHOOL EARLY!
uff
hff
OH, NO!

"EACH OF THE VICTIMS WAS SLASHED REPEATEDLY WITH A SHARP BLADE. INVESTIGATORS BELIEVE ALL THE KILLINGS TO BE THE WORK OF THE SAME MAN, AND A SEARCH IS MOUNTING IN THE AREA..."
WE'RE ALMOST THERE!
hff
uff
hff
uff
uff
THIS REALLY ISN'T OUR PART OF TOWN.
WHAM!
O-OUCH! DON'T STOP SO SUDDENLY, SONOKO!
WHY THE HELLD YOU DO THAT?
"THE SUSPECT IS APPARENTLY STILL AT LARGE IN TOKYO. ANYONE SEEING A SUSPICIOUS PERSON..."
uhn...
uhn.

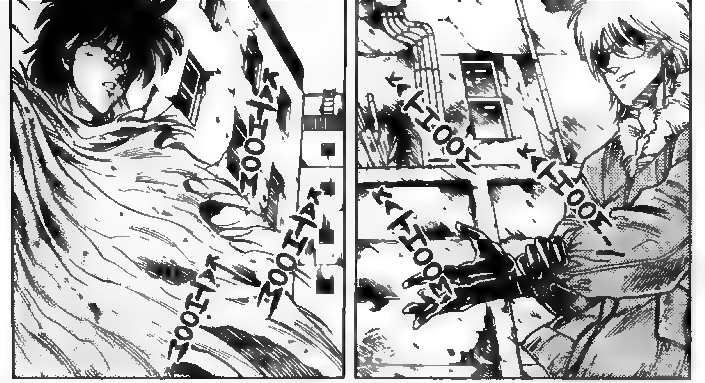
AAAHHRRR!!
KA THOOM
KA THOOM
W-WHAT IS HE ?!
Y-YUH-UHN...
GROO-OWRR
AAGH!
WHOOOSH
AIEEEEE!

!!
KABA
EEEAGH!
LEAVE ME ALONE !
HHE'S NOT NORMAL !
HE'S SOME KIND OF MONSTER !
M-ME ?
NOOOOO!
!!

SMASH
HUH?! WHAT IS HE DOING?
DON'T JUMP! IT'S DANGEROUS!
HE FELL!
THIS IS SERIOUS!
WHAT IF HE'S DEAD?
!!
HE'S GONE!!!

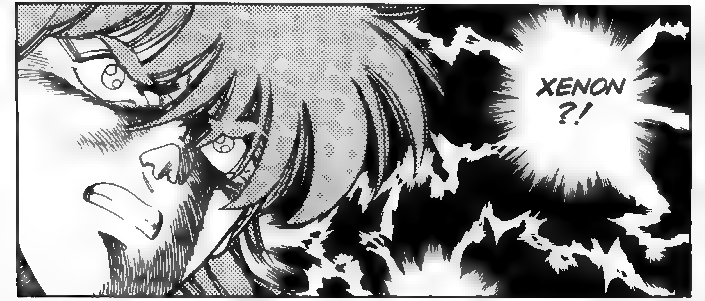
uff
uff
uff
uff
hff
hff
I·I CAN REMEMBER !
I ESCAPED! I RAN FROM SO MANY PEOPLE!
THEY...A GIANT ORGAN ZATION .
. THEY MADE ME DIFFERENT !

EEEEEEEEEE!
ASUKA !!
SO... NO, K.O...?!
DAMN !


KATOOK
KATOOK
KATOOK
KATOOK
KATOOK
KATOOK

OH.. IT'S YOU.. I CAN FEEL IT...
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SHARES MY SOUL
ZOOTAK

.WHAT A STRANGE COINCIDENCE TO FIND YOU HERE BROTHER !
WHAT'S HE TALKIN' ABOUT ?!
OR SHOULD I SAY-- XENON...


XENON ?!

Brrring
YOU AND YOUR GANG OF CHEERLEADERS CAN JUST SHOVE IT.
WHY SHOULD I GIVE A SHIT WHAT YOU THINK ?
hmph !

ST-STOP IT....!!
TELL ME WHO I AM !
BAM
ASUKA !
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU ?!
I SHOULD GO HELP CATCH THAT ASS-HOLE

WHOMP!
SMASH!
WHAT MAKES YOU THE ULTIMATE PRODUCT, XENON ?!
Whoosh
WHY ARE YOU THE MASTERPIECE ?!
I-I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHO ARE YOU?
Whump
ME? I'M THE DEFECTIVE !
WHAM

EEEEEE!
KRUNCH!
WELL YOUR REACTION TIME'S NOT TOO BAD.
BUT HOW WILL YOU DEAL WITH THIS?!
SLAK!
SLAK!
wheeeYANG
YAAAAH!
EEEAH!
ASUKA!!

Heh, heh, heh.
They call YOU "the ultimate product"? Shortsighted of them.
..I was developed exclusively for assassinations! My very NATURE makes me a cut above.
..I will fry you, Xenon-- I'll cook up their "masterpiece" like a gourmet meal!
These tentacles of mine will squirm into your ears, rip up your brain, and pop right out!
And these headaches-- at last I'll feel REFRESHED again!
Aah
Ungh
Zzhhuurrruu

STOP IT!
ASUKA.
ASUKA DOESN'T KNOW WHO HE IS!!
STOP, SONOKO!
HE HAS AMNESIA!
YOU CAN'T KILL HIM--
--YOU JUST CAN'T! PLEASE STOP IT..
HEH HEH, HEH, HEH.
..I SEE. AMNESIA
YOU'RE RIGHT IT'S NO FUN TO BEAT A DEFECTIVE..
CLICK
..HA. HA. HA..

XENON !
YOU SHOULD THANK THIS GIRL..
..IS HE ONE OF THE ONES I ESCAPED FROM...?
XENON ....?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, ASUKA !?
SO.. NO... KO.. ?
PLEASE !
YOU'VE GOT TO FOLLOW ME-- AND YOU MUSTN'T ASK ANY QUESTIONS !

SONOKO ! DON'T GET MESSED UP IN THIS!
RISA.
IT'S GONE TOO FAR ALREADY DON'T YOU SEE?!
THIS IS A NIGHTMARE! WE SHOULD JUST GO HOME!
ARE YOU OKAY?
UNGH...
hff
uff
SONOKO !!
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, RISA.
..THANKS FOR STICKING BY ME YOU CAN GO HOME NOW
ST-STUPID..
..THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT !

HE'S JUST A GUY, SONOKO. EVEN IF YOU LOVE HIM, WHY DO YOU HAVE TO DO SO MUCH..?
DAMN YOU ASUKA! BRING BACK MY SONOKO!
OFF LIMITS PRIVATE PROPERTY
立入禁止 私有地
DAMN THIS CYBORG BODY.
..IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN...
..IT WON'T MOVE..
WON'T MOVE.
..MAYBE THE BLOOD OF TWENTY MORE WOULD MAKE ME FEEL BETTER..
NUMBER 204 !!
HH?!

TONO!!
WELL, I DIDN'T EXPECT TO FIND YOU DURING MY SEARCH FOR XENON.
heh, heh, heh...
I'VE JUST SEEN HIM!
WHAT?!
THEN YOU FOUGHT HIM?!
YOU WILL FOLLOW ORDERS!
UH WELL-- I CAN'T DO IT NOW. HE'S GOT AMNESIA-- DOESN'T KNOW WHO OR WHAT HE IS THERE'S NO KICK IN FIGHTING DEFECTIVE MERCHANDISE!
YOU WERE COMMANDED TO CAPTURE OR EXTERMINATE UNIT X-777-- XENON THE HEAVY METAL WARRIOR!

SHUT UP!!
IF YOU WANT ME TO FOLLOW YOUR ORDERS, THEN FIX THIS SECOND-HAND TIN WOODSMAN BODY THAT ONLY WORKS WHEN I'M AXING PEOPLE!
YOU CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT IT'S LIKE...FEELING THAT YOUR BODY DOESN'T MOVE FREELY ANYMORE, THAT SOMETHING LIKE A CENTIPEDE IS ALWAYS WIGGLING AROUND IN YOUR HEAD!
BE A MAN, NUMBER 204!
AM I A MAN--OR A NUMBER?!
MY NAME IS JASON BOLDGARD! USE IT DAMN YOU!
I'LL KILL YOU, TONO.
HELL ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH...
RRRR

IS ASUKA STILL A HUMAN BEING?
NAH. NOT ANYMORE.
IS THERE A HUMAN BEING IN THE WORLD WHO CAN SMASH THROUGH A FOOT OF CONCRETE AND LEAP FROM A SEVEN STORY BUILDING?
WHAT'D BETTER REPORT TO THE BOSS...
YEAH FIRST THING.
THAT NOISE!
WH-WHAT IS IT?!
MY GOD!!!
WHIFF
SNAP

THEY'VE SEEN US, SIR-- WHAT SHALL WE DO?
DISPOSE OF THEM

HERE...
WHAHAT AN OLD HOUSE.
THAT SOUND! IS THIS PLACE HAUNTED?
HELLO...?
GRANDPA!!
!?
?
OH! SONOKO!

WHAT ?
IS HE THE ONE YOU WERE YAMMERING ABOUT...?
heh, heh, heh, heh heh!
!!
ZAPP!
EEEEEAH! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE, GRANDPA ?!
WHUMP
heh, heh, heh, heh, heh!

SCENE 4

METAMORPHOSIS IV

SWISH
KLUNK
YOU CREEPS AGAIN
.. WHY AREN'T YOU OFF LICKING RYUJI'S BOOTS ?
YOUR NAME IS ASUKA KANO.. CORRECT ?
P_EASE.. COME WITH US
?!

YOU AREN'T RYUJI'S THUGS. BUT YOU SURE ARE SOMEBODYS..
...WHO ARE YOU ?!
XENON !
NO !
XE... NON..
EEYAGH!

OH.
..WHWHERE AM I.?
WELL, YOU SEEM TO HAVE WOKEN UP ALL RGHT
WHAT DD YOJ DO TO ME ?!
Y-YOU !
OH THAT-- JUST A SPECIAL ELECTROSHOCK BULLET I INVENTED
THE MOMENT T HITS, A STRONG CURRENT IS D.SCHARGED AND THE SUBJECT S RENDERED UNCONSCIOUS.
IF YOU HAD PROVED VIOLENT, I WOULD HAVE MISSED MY OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE YOU.
WH-WHO ARE YOU..?
..AND WHERE'S SONOKO ?!

TRY NOT TO WORK YOURSELF INTO A FRENZY
SINCE IT WAS GETTING SO LATE, I SENT MY GRANDDAUGHTER HOME.
BUT WE'VE GOT MORE IMPORTANT MATTERS TO DISCUSS.
I EXAMINED YOUR BODY CAREFULLY, FROM HEAD TO TOE..
...YOU--
--YOU'RE NOT A HUMAN BEING, ARE YOU?!
OH...

...IF ONLY IT WERE JUST A DREAM.
SO MUCH HAPPENED ALL AT ONCE...
I CAN HARDLY TELL WHAT'S WHAT ANYMORE
BUT GRANDPA WILL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING, I JUST KNOW IT
phew
I'M SO SORRY. RISA
FREEZE

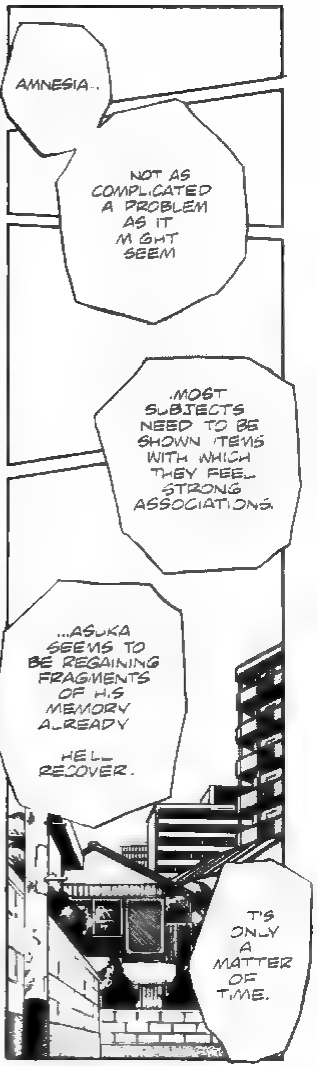
BUT HOW?.
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?
ANSWER ME, DAMN IT! SOMEONE ANSWER ME!
WHO THE HELL DID THIS TO YOU?!

HASHIMOTO !
YOSHIDA !
INOUE !
ISN'T ANYONE STILL ALIVE ?
B-BOSS..
FUJIMAKI ! WHAT HAPPENED HERE ? TELL ME !
WHAT MONSTER DID THIS TO YOU...
...ASUKA !?
N-NO.. ASUKA... HE ESCAPED..
. AFTER HE LEFT SOME CAUCASIANS CAME. . THEY...
CAUCASIANS !?

A-ASUKA..
MIGHT BE ONE OF THEM..
...THEY'RE ALL LIKE HIM--
FREAKS!
koff koff
FUJIMAK.!
I-I DON'T WANT TO DIE,...
BBOSS..
I DON'T WANT.
TO DIE YET
SHUT UP!
I WON'T LET YOU DIE THIS WAY!
!!
THEY'VE COME BACK, BOSS...
THEY'VE COME BACK...
FOR ME...
DON'T WORRY WA,T HERE
NO, BOSS!
RUN AWAY.
RUN.

DID YOU DO THIS?!
DAMN!
GET W.TH IT!
SNP
SSSSSSSSSRRR
WHAT?
RRYUJ.!
FIRE!
FWOOSH! FWOOSH! FWOOSH!

KABOOM!


AMNESIA..
NOT AS COMPLICATED A PROBLEM AS IT MIGHT SEEM
.MOST SUBJECTS NEED TO BE SHOWN ITEMS WITH WHICH THEY FEEL STRONG ASSOCIATIONS.
...ASUKA SEEMS TO BE REGAINING FRAGMENTS OF HIS MEMORY ALREADY
HE'LL RECOVER.
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME.

THIS IS IT
CAN'T YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING ?
SO THIS IS THE APARTMENT WHERE I WAS LIVING
LET'S GO IN!
OH !
BRISA !

I FIGURED YOU'D WIND UP HERE.
PLAYING HOOKY?
HERE'S YOUR BAG. YOU FORGOT IT YESTERDAY.
RISA..
I GUESS I SHOULD STOP BEING SO COMPLETELY NICE TO YOU NOW.
?!
..YOU HARDLY DESERVE TO HAVE A FRIEND AFTER THE WAY YOU'VE STOMPED ON ME..
SP!
BUT I'M NOT LEAVING YOU AS SONOKO'S ONLY PROTECTION!
THANKS.
RISA..
SO QUIT DAWDLING! ARE WE GOING UP TO ASUKA'S PLACE OR NOT?
Ding!
YEAH OKAY.

bing bong
bing bong
THIS FEELS SO STRANGE IS THIS REALLY MY HOME ?
hmm.. NOBODY SEEMS TO BE HERE..
KICK
AND THE DOOR-- IT'S UNLOCKED
HELLO ?
!!
Y-YOU !!

A-
ASUKA !!
?!
"YOU'LL BE HAPPY"
UHN...
ASUKA !
YOU SEE? AMNESIA THE POOR BOY DOESN'T EVEN RECOGNIZE HIS OWN MOTHER.
WHAT?!
THAT'S WHY WE'VE COME FOR HIM--TO LOOK AFTER HIM UNTIL HE'S RECOVERED.
OH, GIVE ME A BREAK !!
"LOOK AFTER HIM"? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
THAT PERVERT OVER THERE'S THE ONE WHO ATTACKED US YESTERDAY!

IT'S TRUE!
R-RYUJI !
HASHIMOTO... YOSHIDA... FUJIMAKI... ALL MY FRIENDS-- TORN APART BY THESE MONSTERS !
WHAT !?
EVERYTHING STARTED TO GO WRONG WHEN ASUKA SHOWED UP AGAIN THAT'S WHY I FOLLOWED HIM HERE...
DAMN.
I HADN'T EXPECTED TO RUN INTO THESE MURDERERS...
. BUT I MADE IT OUT ALIVE AS YOU CAN SEE... THANKS TO FUJIMAKI, WHO PUSHED ME AWAY WITH HIS LAST BIT OF STRENGTH...

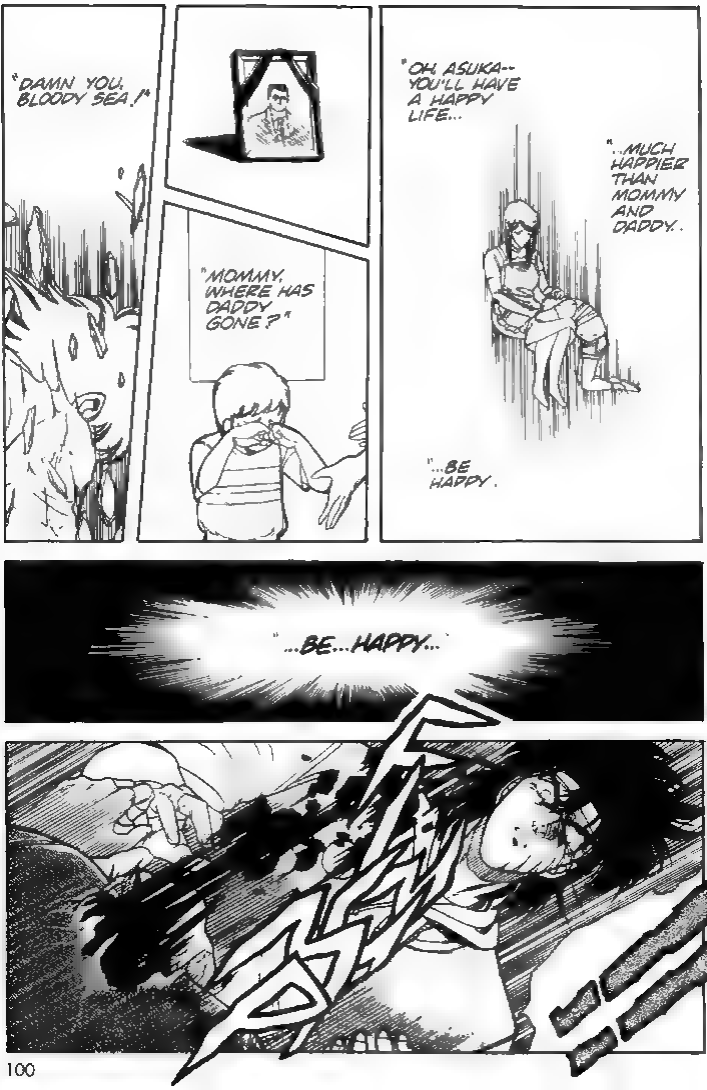
...AND I'LL AVENGE HIM-- FUJIMAKI AND ALL MY FRIENDS!
HES IN OUR WAY! KILL HIM!
YES, SIR!
RYUJI! NO!
WHOOO

AH!
AND IT'S YOUR TURN NEXT!!
NUMBER 204, DISPOSE OF HIM!
ha, ha, ha, ha, ha...
NO NEED TO ASK TWICE!
snap whirrr
EEEEH!
RUN, RYUJI! RUN!
AAAGH!
ha, ha, ha...
zz
khuurrruu

MOVE ASIDE, EVERYONE!
QUICKLY!!
GRANDPA!
MY GOD! HHE IS...
TIME FOR MY TRUSTY SHOCK GUN!
ZAPP!
EEYAH!
krack!!!
!!
AAAGH!
kaSHUSAM

A-ASUKA !!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ?!
D--
--DAMN !!
wheeeYANG
SPLRRRPP !!
!?
SPLOSH!

A-ASUKA...
..HAVE A HAPPY... LIFE...
"EXPERIMENT TTT IS COMPLETED."
"..YOU'RE BORN AGAIN. HENCE-FORTH, YOU ARE XENON."
"HE HAS ESCAPED!"
SECURE ALL SECTIONS"!
"NO! I WILL BE FREE!"


"DAMN YOU, BLOODY SEA!"
"MOMMY, WHERE HAS DADDY GONE?"
"OH, ASUKA-- YOU'LL HAVE A HAPPY LIFE...
"...MUCH HAPPIER THAN MOMMY AND DADDY.
"...BE HAPPY.
"...BE...HAPPY..."

NO, MOM! NO!
YOU!
IT'S DANGEROUS, SONOKO!
GET OUT OF HERE!
HURRY, GIRL! HURRY!
I REMEMBER!
I REMEMBER EVERYTHING!
I'M... I'M...
AASUKA ...!

I AM XENON !!
THOOM
THOOM
THOOM
ASUKA !!

KA-THOOM
KA-THOOM
YES, NOW I KNOW WHAT YOU DID TO ME!
I WAS ASUKA KANO...
KA-THOOM
...BEFORE YOU GAVE ME THIS FREAKISH BODY!
KA-THOOM
THE CYBORG-- XENON!

SCENE 5

METAMORPHOSIS V

GRROOWRR!
UNH!
!!

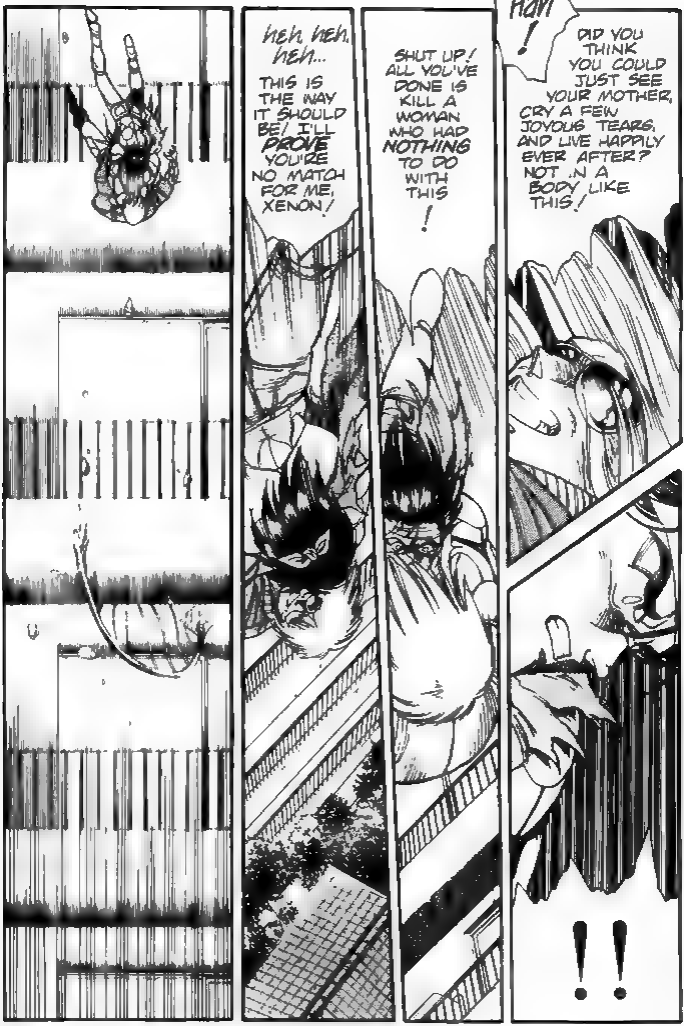
GRR RRR
kaTHOOM
kaTHOOM
kaTHOOM
XENON IS OPERATIONAL!
baDOOM
heh, heh, heh...
gaDOOM
A-ASUKA, ARE YOU...?!

ga DOOM
ga DOOM

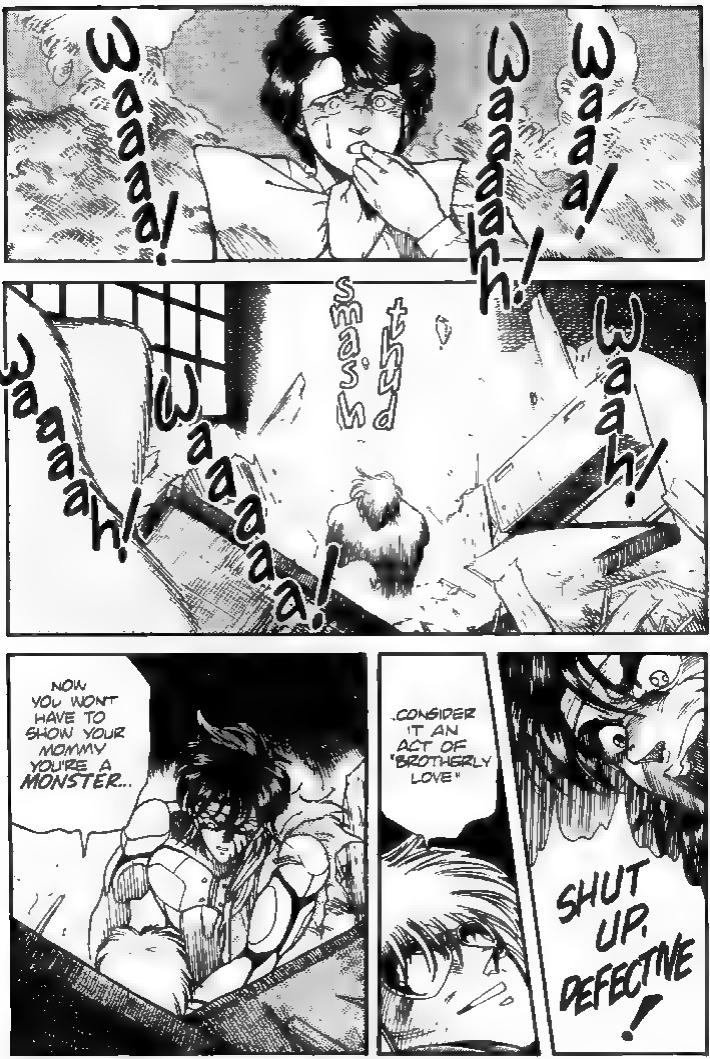
AH! GOOD! YOU PUT XENON INTO MOTION!
IT WOULDN'T BE ANY FUN OTHERWISE!
GOD DAMN YOU!
AAGH!
Whoosh!

ASUKA!!
NO ESCAPE THIS TIME!
DAMN!
A GUN!
KCHOW

DAMN IT! HE'S GONE!
!!
.....
WHAP
UNGH!

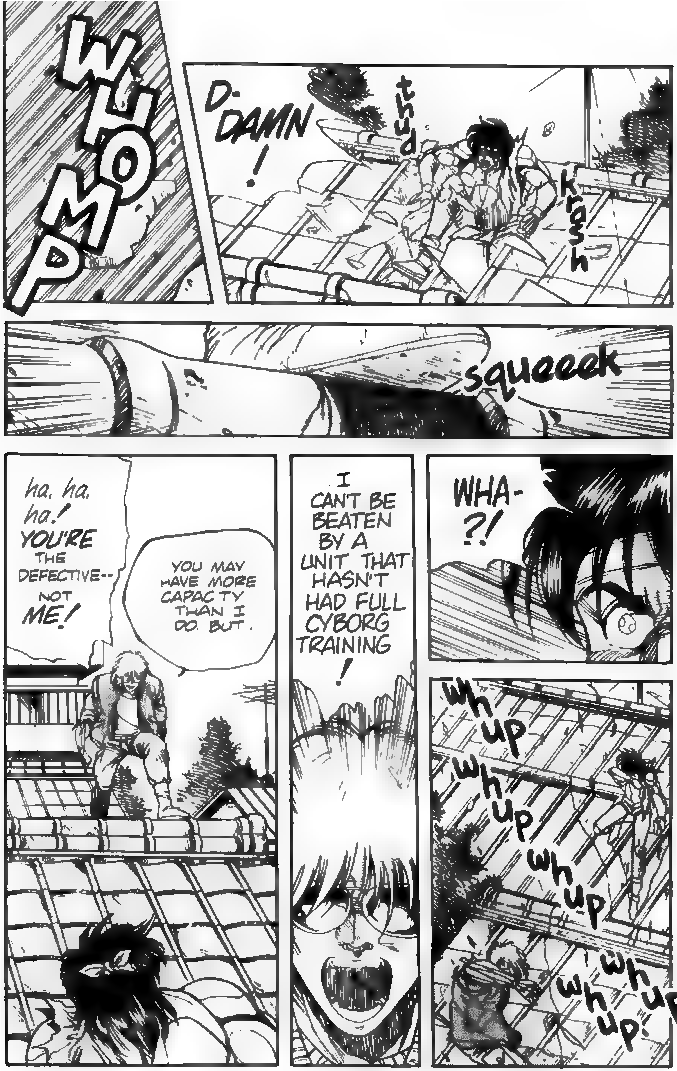

Heh, heh, heh...
THIS IS THE WAY IT SHOULD BE! I'LL PROVE YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR ME, XENON!
SHUT UP! ALL YOU'VE DONE IS KILL A WOMAN WHO HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS!
Hah!
DID YOU THINK YOU COULD JUST SEE YOUR MOTHER, CRY A FEW JOYOUS TEARS, AND LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER? NOT IN A BODY LIKE THIS!
!!

KRASH!
BASTARD!!
ha, ha, ha, ha... SORRY TO SPOIL YOUR DREAMS, XENON!


Waaaa!
Waaaaah!
Waaa!
Waaaaah!
Waaaaaaa!
Waaah!
thud
smash
NOW YOU WON'T HAVE TO SHOW YOUR MOMMY YOU'RE A MONSTER...
..CONSIDER IT AN ACT OF "BROTHERLY LOVE"
SHUT UP, DEFECTIVE!

reeee
KLICK
GRRO
OWRRR
creeeek
SHEEOO

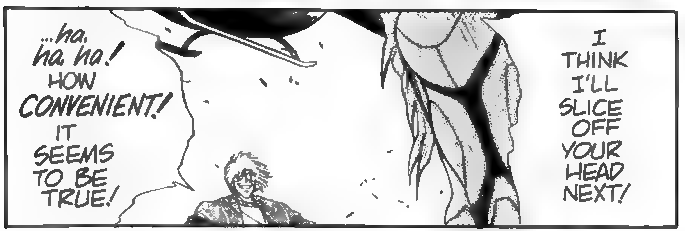
SSSHHH
AAAHRRR!
DAMN! HOW DO I BALANCE THIS WEIRD BODY ?!
AAGH!
KUH
WHAM!
AARGH


WHOMP
D-DAMN!
thud
krash
squeeek
ha, ha, ha! YOU'RE THE DEFECTIVE-- NOT ME!
YOU MAY HAVE MORE CAPACITY THAN I DO BUT
I CAN'T BE BEATEN BY A UNIT THAT HASN'T HAD FULL CYBORG TRAINING!
WHA-?!
whup whup whup whup whup whup!

whup
whup
whup
whup
whup
whup

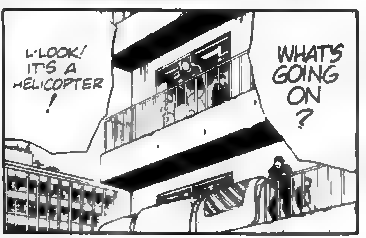
YOU MAY BE OUR FINEST PRODUCT YET, XENON. BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU'RE A FINISHED PRODUCT!
YOU ESCAPED BEFORE THE FINAL OPERATION/ YOUR XENONIC ARMOR GRAFTING IS INCOMPLETE!

YOUR WEAK POINT, XENON...
...IS YOUR FACE!
UHN!
SLAASH!
CLICK
heh...


...ha, ha, ha! HOW CONVENIENT! IT SEEMS TO BE TRUE!
I THINK I'LL SLICE OFF YOUR HEAD NEXT!

YOU'LL NEVER KILL ME! NOT UNTIL I AVENGE MY MOTHER'S DEATH!

WHAT'S HAPPENING?


L'LOOK! IT'S A HELICOPTER!
WHAT'S GOING ON?

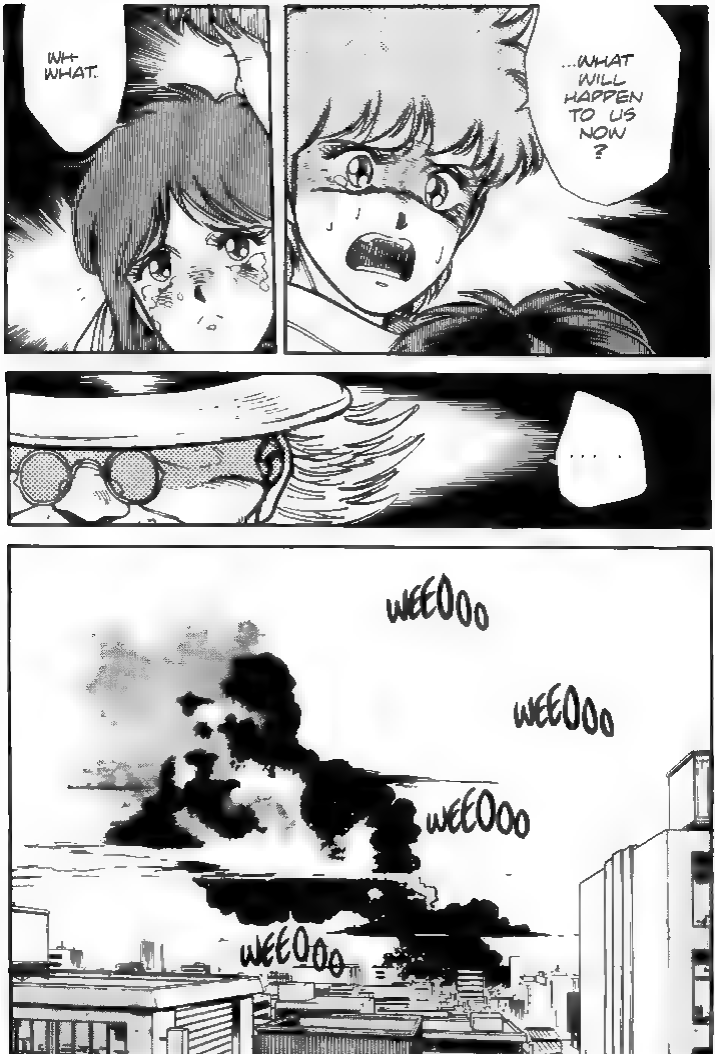
WE'RE ATTRACTING ATTENTION.
GET US OUT OF HERE!
WHAT SHALL WE DO ABOUT NUMBER 204?
WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO SACRIFICE HIM! PREPARE TO FIRE TOW ANTI-TANK MISSILES!
WHAT?! IN THE MIDDLE OF A C.TY?!
THINK ONLY ABOUT DESTROYING XENON! THE BLOODY SEA WILL TAKE CARE OF THE REST!
Y-YES, SIR. WHAT'S THE TARGET?
THE APARTMENT COMPLEX WE JUST LEFT
whup
whup
whup
whup
whup
whup

WHAT ?!
PREPARATIONS COMPLETE!
TONO, YOU CAN'T ...!
!!
IN THIS SITUATION I HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE..
...FIRE!

AHHHHHGGGHHHH
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

AAARRGH!
NOOOO!
EEEEAGHH!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAMBLAM
AEEEEE!

WHY ARE WE LEAVING, GRANDPA?!
WE CAN'T JUST DRIVE AWAY!
ASUKA'S MOTHER WAS JUST KILLED IN FRONT OF OUR EYES!
DIDN'T YOU SEE ?!
GRANDPA STOP THE CAR! WE HAVE TO GO TO THE POLICE! THEY'VE GOT TO ARREST THOSE MEN!
I'M SORRY, SONOKO THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE
WHAT?! THEY'RE MURDERERS! ASUKA'S MOTHER WAS RIPPED APART! YOU SAW IT! ARE YOU SAYING IT WAS ALL JUST A DREAM?
SONOKO, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING NOW IS TO FIND A SAFE PLACE TO HIDE.
BUT, GRANDPA!


WH-
WHAT.
...WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO US NOW?
. . . .
WEEOoo
WEEOoo
WEEOoo
WEEOoo

SCENE 6

METAMORPHOSIS VI

新田
NITTA
DON'T WORRY, DEAR SHE'LL BE HOME SOON.
ISN'T IT GETTING A LITTLE LATE..?
slam
THERE! YOU SEE?
I WON'T STAND STILL FOR THIS!
STOMP!
PLEASE, DEAR DON'T SCOLD HER TOO STERNLY
N-NOW, HONEY...
WHAT TIME DO YOU THINK IT IS, SONOKO!?

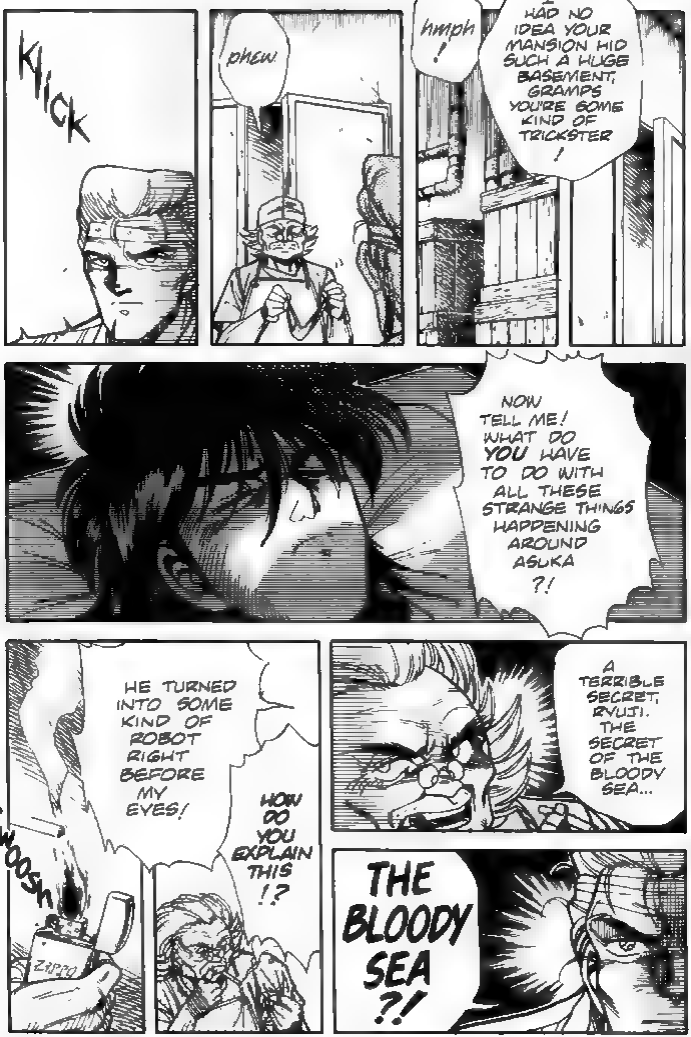
YOU'VE BEEN TO THAT OLD MAN'S PLACE AGAIN HAVEN'T YOU !?
SONOKO!
WHEN WILL YOU FINALLY LEARN, GIRL ?
THAT MAN IS A TERRIBLE DISGRACE TO THE NITTA FAMILY!
HE ABANDONED MY SICK MOTHER AND DISAPPEARED TO UNDERTAKE HIS USELESS RESEARCH! SHE WAS KILLED BY A HIT AND RUN DRIVER ON THE WAY TO THE HOSPITAL!
WHEN HE FINALLY SHOWED UP AGAIN, HE DIDN'T EVEN VISIT HER GRAVE! THE NITTA FAMILY HAD SPENT SEVEN GENERATIONS ACCUMULATING WEALTH/ HE WENT THROUGH IT IN SEVEN MONTHS!
HONEY, STOP IT!

YOU'RE SCOLDING HER TOO HARSHLY! YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL SONOKO SUCH THINGS.
. . . .
snf wh.. whh
WAAAAA! MOM!
BABY. ?
whump
..WHAT HAPPENED ? TELL MAMA ALL ABOUT IT.
I'LL HURRY TO WHEREVER YOU MAY BE
..DON'T WORRY. SONOKO... I'LL EXPLAIN IT ALL TO YOU LATER... BUT YOU MUST REST NOW. ALL RIGHT ?
LISTEN SONOKO IF YOU HAPPEN TO SEE THOSE RUFFIANS AGAIN.
TAKE THIS. ER, SPECIAL TRANS- MITTER AND AIM THE FRONT HOLE AT THEM. THEN PULL BACK ON THIS... LEVER.

I'LL GO AND LOOK FOR ASUKA LATER
OKAY ?
OKAY
SONOKO.
...I'LL SEE YA AT SCHOOL TOMORROW.
OKAY, SONOKO..?
OKAY RISA ..
FOR SURE, OKAY ?

GRANDDA
RYUJI.
ASUKA.
AT LAST. THE TIME HAS FINALLY COME
Snp

cha-chu-ck!
WH-WHO'S THERE ?!
WAIT, GRAMPS.. IT'S ME.
IS THAT YOU, RYUJI.. ?!
AND ASUKA ?!
QUICK! BRING HIM INTO THE LAB!
THEY'VE BEEN IN THERE EIGHT HOURS ALREADY!


Klick
chew
hmph!
I HAD NO IDEA YOUR MANSION HID SUCH A HUGE BASEMENT, GRAMPS YOU'RE SOME KIND OF TRICKSTER!
NOW TELL ME! WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO DO WITH ALL THESE STRANGE THINGS HAPPENING AROUND ASUKA?!
HE TURNED INTO SOME KIND OF ROBOT RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES!
HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THIS!?
fwoosh
Zippo
A TERRIBLE SECRET, RYUJI. THE SECRET OF THE BLOODY SEA...
THE BLOODY SEA?!

YOU'RE RELATED TO THE NITTA FAMILY--YOU MUST KNOW THAT I WAS MISSING UNTIL THREE YEARS AGO.
...I WAS ABDUCTED, FORCED TO JOIN THE WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OF THE BLOODY SEA.
WHAT IS THAT ?
"THE BLOODY SEA--LA MER ROUGE-SANG--IS AN ORGANIZATION THAT DEVELOPS MILITARY HARDWARE.
"SIMPLY SPEAKING, THEY ARE MERCHANTS WHO DEVELOP NEW WEAPONS AND MARKET THEM TO VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS."
"AMONG THE BLOODY SEA'S TWENTY-SIX DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, PROJECT X IS THE ONE EXPERIMENTING WITH LIVING BODY WEAPONS, A COMBINATION OF MAN AND MACHINE
"BUT GRAMPS--WHAT DO THEY HAVE TO DO WITH ASUKA?"
"HIGH-TECH WEAPONRY IS BECOMING MORE POWERFUL AND MORE ACCURATE BECAUSE OF THE DIVERSIFICATION OF COMPUTERS. THE MOST EFFECTIVE DEFENSE AGAINST SUCH SYSTEMS IS A LIVING WEAPON WHICH CAN THINK AND LEARN ON ITS OWN.
"...ASUKA IS JUST SUCH A CYBORG--
A LIVING BODY WEAPON!"

ha, ha-ha, ha, ha.
YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE SUCH A RIDICULOUS FAIRY TALE ?!
BUT IT'S A FACT !
SAVE IT FOR YOUR GRANDCHILDREN!
THEY CALLED HIM XENON !
DANGER
IF HE IS THE ONE THEN PROJECT X IS MORE OR LESS COMPLETE! AND THE WHOLE WORLD WILL TREMBLE AT THE CONSEQUENCES!
HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL THIS...?
TO BE HONEST? THE MAN WHO DESIGNED PROJECT X--AND XENON--IS...
...NONE OTHER THAN MYSELF !
AAAH..
Creeek
.. I KNEW THE DAY WOULD COME.. BUT I NEVER IMAGINED IT WOULD BE LIKE THIS..
...IT'S PUNISHMENT..
A DIVINE RETRIBUTION.

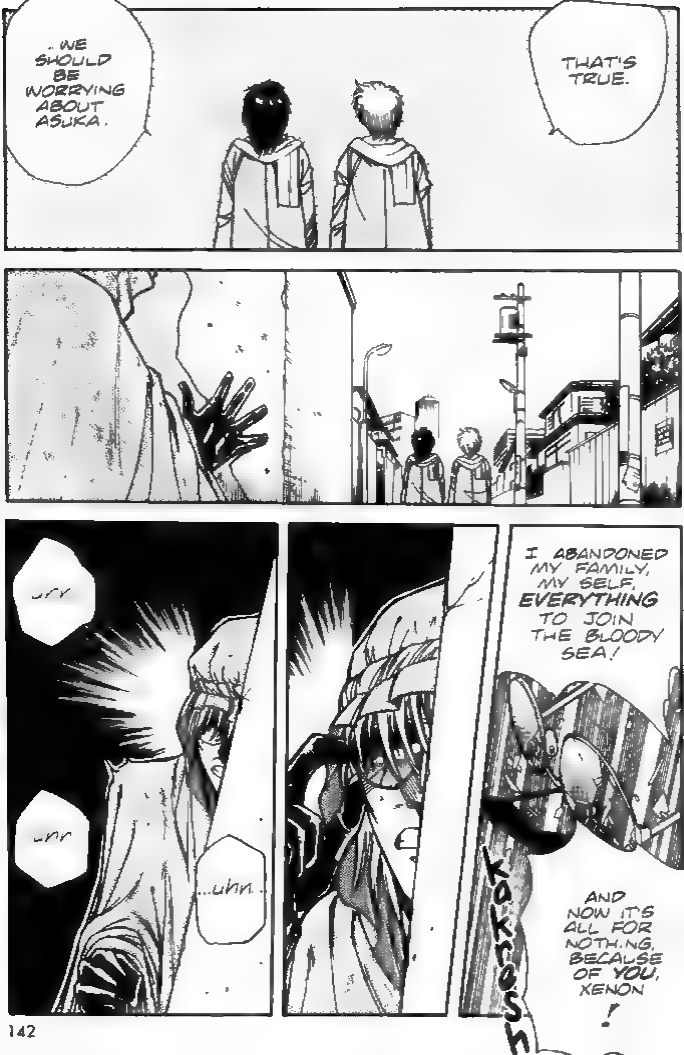
WELL... ISNT THIS INTERESTING ?
I DIDN'T EXPECT THE FATHER OF THIS CURSED BODY TO BE IN SUCH A PLACE !!
ASUKA

GOOD MORNING, SONOKO.
GOOD MORNING, MOTHER
YOU SURPRISED ME LAST NIGHT..
YOU MUST HAVE BEEN UP CRYING A LONG TIME. YOUR EYES ARE STILL RED
ahem.
GOOD MORNING, DAD.
...UH-- GOOD MORNING ?
schlurp
WELL..WHAT SHALL I SAY? . ANYWAY, I HEARD THAT YOUR FRIEND'S MOTHER PASSED AWAY.. WELL, I AM TRULY SORRY I WAS IN A BIT OF A BAD MOOD LAST NIGHT
..I SAID THINGS I PROBABLY SHOULDN'T HAVE.

I'M SORRY THAT I MADE YOU WORRY FATHER. I'M ALL RIGHT NOW
ha
ha. ha. ha. ha. ha! I'M RELIEVED!
NOW HURRY UP, DEAR, OR YOU'LL BE LATE FOR SCHOOL
rustle rustle
THAT'S GOOD, SONOKO!
毎朝新聞
住宅街で謎の大爆発!!
"CAN IT BE.?
"ASUKA'S CONDO!"
MYSTERIOUS EXPLOSION ROCKS RESIDENTIAL AREA"

WHAT'S WRONG, SONOKO?
AREN'T YOU GOING TO FINISH YOUR BREAKFAST?
I-I'M GOING TO SCHOOL.
slam
YESTERDAY WAS QUITE A SHOCK. IT'S UNDER-STANDABLE.
klang
RISA!
SONOKO!

IT'S A LONG WAY FROM YOUR HOUSE, RISA... JUST TO SEE ME.
WELL, AFTER I READ THE PAPER, I WAS PRETTY HYPER.
YOU DID READ THE PAPER, THEN?
YEAH I SAW IT.
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO? I'M SCARED
DON'T WORRY MY GRANDFATHER CAN HANDLE IT IF THINGS TURN SERIOUS.
M-MAYBE SO I MEAN, LIKE, THEY WOULDN'T DO ANYTHING TO ORDINARY PEOPLE LIKE US
OF COURSE THEY WOULDN'T
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU, SONOKO? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I SAW HER KILLED BEFORE MY EYES. I DON'T KNOW IF I'LL EVER BE ALL RIGHT...
BUT WE CAN'T KEEP ON WHIMPERING FOREVER...


..WE SHOULD BE WORRYING ABOUT ASUKA.
THAT'S TRUE.
urr
urrr
...uhm.
I ABANDONED MY FAMILY, MY SELF, EVERYTHING TO JOIN THE BLOODY SEA!
AND NOW IT'S ALL FOR NOTHING, BECAUSE OF YOU, XENON!
KAKOSH

AND BEFORE MY LIFE IS OVER, XENON, I SWEAR I'LL ROB YOU OF EVERYTHING YOU HOLD PRECIOUS!
MEANWHILE
NO! STOP, ASUKA!
WHAM!
KRASH!
FWSHPAAASH!!

ASUKA, CUT IT OUT! WHAT'S THE USE OF ATTACKING AN OLD MAN?!
ASUKA!
JUST SHUT UP, RYUJI!
ASUKA!
HUSH, RYUJI! IT'S ALL RIGHT!
IF KILLING ME WILL PUT YOUR MIND AT PEACE, THEN KILL ME ASUKA..
PREPARE TO DIE, OLD MAN!
BUT FIRST, ASUKA, LISTEN TO ME! PLEASE!
I DIDN'T GO TO THE BLOODY SEA VOLUNTARILY I WAS KIDNAPPED..

AT FIRST, I REFUSED TO COOPERATE..
BUT THEY THREATENED TO KILL MY FAMILY.
"...I CONFESS, ONCE THE RESEARCH BEGAN, I BECAME FASCINATED WITH THEIR PROJECT..
"A DEVILISH DEED! THE BLOODY SEA GRABBED INNOCENT PEOPLE, ONE AFTER ANOTHER, AND MADE THEM VICTIMS OF THEIR INHUMAN EXPERIMENTS
"...WHEN I FOUND OUT, I BEGAN TO FEAR AND HATE WHAT I HAD DONE. I ESCAPED WITH A FEW CYBORGS.
"..BUT I THOUGHT THE RESEARCH WAS THEORETICAL! THEY CARRIED OUT PROJECT X WITHOUT EVEN TELLING ME!
", SO THE BLOODY SEA BUTCHERED MY WIFE.."

...I SWORE AN OATH ON HER GRAVE!
WITH MY OWN HANDS, I WOULD REMOVE XENON FROM THIS WORLD, SAVE THIS WORLD FROM THE APOCALYPSE!
I WOULD DESTROY THE BLOODY SEA!
I'VE WAITED FOR A DAY LIKE THIS TO COME!
I'VE SPENT MY FAMILY'S FORTUNE TRYING TO DEMOLISH THEM!
PLEASE HELP ME!
TOGETHER, WE CAN TURN THEM TO RUBBLE!

WHAM
OHNI!
ALL YOU CAN THINK ABOUT ARE YOUR OWN PROBLEMS!

WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO NOW, SONOKO ?
2-B
WELL..
..FIRST OFF, I'VE GOT TO GO TO MY GRANDFATHER'S.
ASUKA ?
DON'T SWEAT IT! HE MUST BE THERE BY NOW!
I HOPE SO..
EEEEEEE !
KKRRASH!
WASH

AIEEE
!!!
WHERE... IS...
...XENON ?!
FX-ZZLAPP!

R R
EEEE
EEEE
!!
THE ALARM! OH, NO !
WHAT'S UP, GRAMPS ?!
NOTHING GOOD! SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED TO SONOKO AT SCHOOL! I'VE GOT TO GET OVER THERE!
WAIT, GRAMPS !
I'LL GO !
ASUKA ?!

YOU'RE RIGHT THE BLOODY SEA MUST BE DESTROYED.
BUT I'LL DO IT ON MY OWN! I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP!
BESIDES, I OWE ONE TO SONOKO.
WAIT! GRAB THAT HELMET!
IT MAY COME IN HANDY...
APPARENTLY YOUR XENONIC FACE ARMOR WAS NEVER INSTALLED.
BE CAREFUL!
I'LL TAKE IT.
BUT DON'T EXPECT ME TO THANK YOU!

SCENE 7

METAMORPHOSIS VII

ZZAPP!
KRAAKLL
KRAAKLL
KRAAKLL

YOUR CHEAP LITTLE TOY HAS NO EFFECT ON ME!
RISA!
GET UP, RISA!
neh, neh, neh. IM A MERCIFUL EXECUTIONER.. YOU WON'T HAVE TO SUFFER. MUCH.
ahn... ahn..
IT'S HOPELESS!
ASUKA!!

WAIT!
OH...
WOULDN'T YOU RATHER KILL ME?!

AASUKA !!
fwhump
snp
THIS IS FOR MY MOTHER...!
kaTHOOM
XENON...
FOR HER I'LL TURN YOU INTO SCRAP!
kaTHOOM
kaTHOOM
...XENON !!

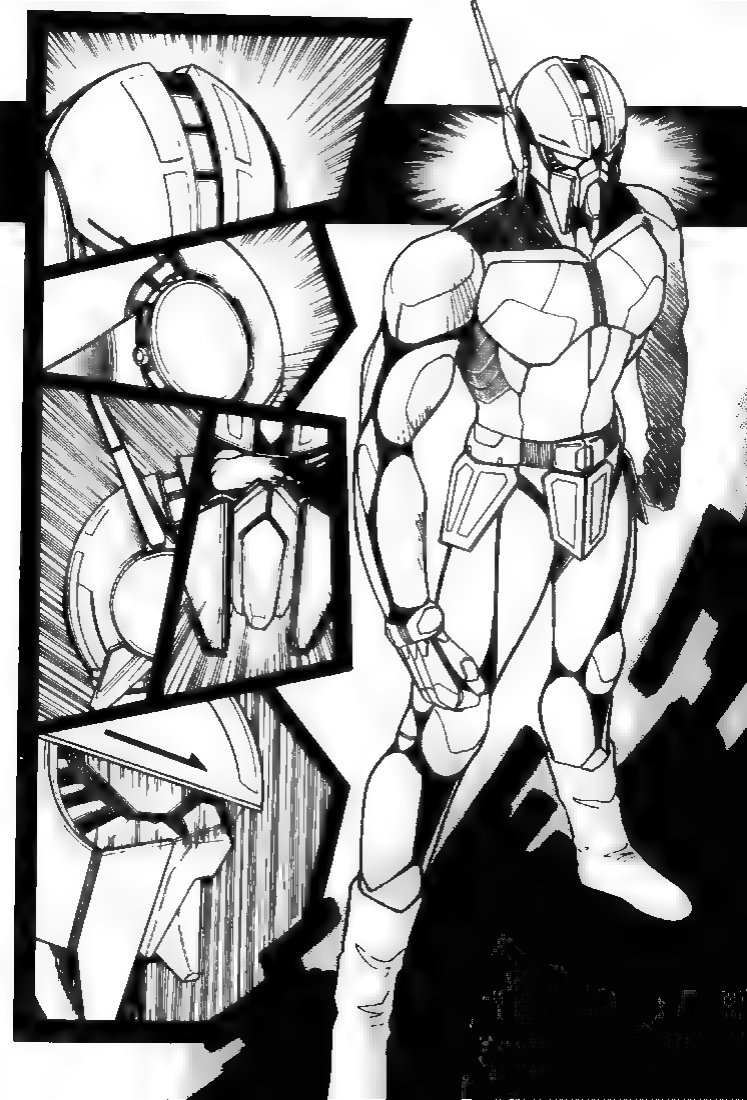
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT, GRAMPS!
SO HE'S REALLY NOT A HUMAN BEING?!
C'MON, TELL ME! HOW DOES HIS BODY WORK?!
THE XENON SYSTEM.
. CREATES A NEW MAN. ONLY THE HEART AND BRAIN REMAIN THE SAME..
"RATHER THAN CALLING ASUKA A CYBORG, IT WOULD BE MORE ACCURATE TO SAY THAT BOTH HIS HUMAN BRAIN AND THE HEART WHICH SUSTAINS IT
". ARE WITHIN THAT ROBOT SHELL
KATHOOM
KATHOOM
KATHOOM

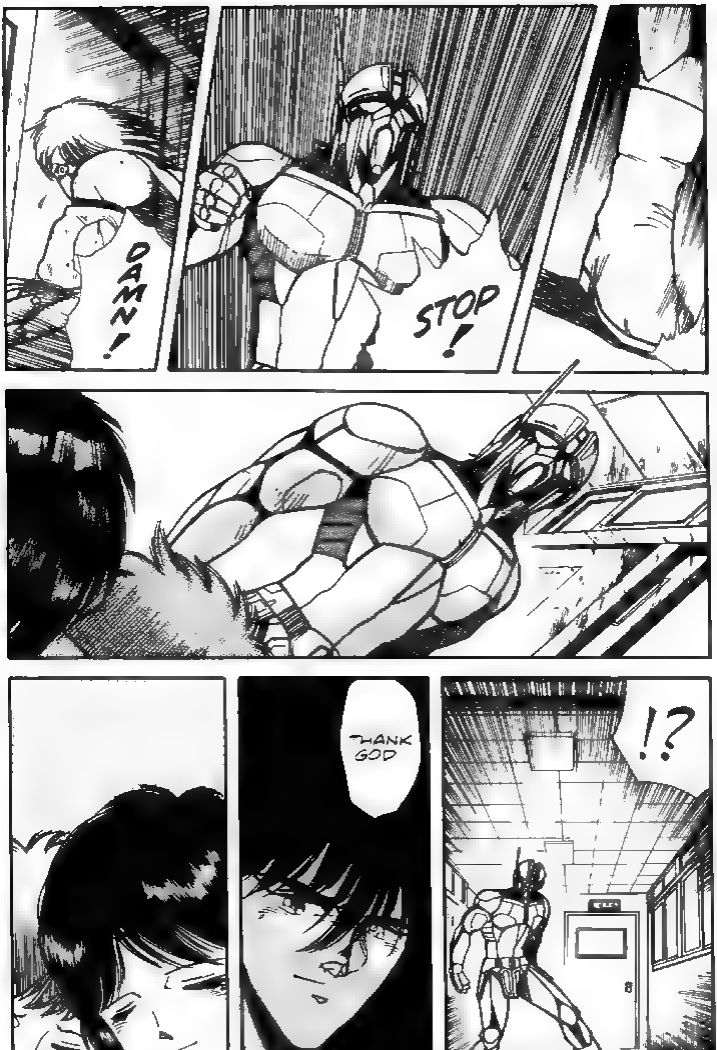
"HIS SKIN IS A THIN COVERING OF XENONICS K30, A NEW METALLIC COMPOUND WHICH HAS ITS OWN MEMORY. IT WAS INVENTED BY THE PROJECT G TEAM OF THE BLOODY SEA
"..K30 CAN EASILY CHANGE ITS HARDNESS, ACCORDING TO A CERTAIN FREQUENCY OF ELECTRIC CURRENT
'AND HIS POWER! ASUKA NOW HAS THE STRENGTH OF THREE HUNDRED MEN, CAN JUMP A HUNDRED FEET AND HIS SPEED IS INCREASED BY BOOSTERS THROUGHOUT HIS BODY!
KATHOOM
KATHOOM
KATHOOM
"ONE XENON COULD EASILY OVERPOWER AN ENTIRE CITY!
KATHOOM
"THE XENON SYSTEM IS ACTIVATED AND KEPT IN CHECK BY IT'S "TWO HEARTS.'
"WHEN A UNIT BECOMES EXCITED AND THE HEART RATE OF 'HIS OWN HEART' GOES BEYOND A CERTAIN NUMBER, AN ARTIFICIAL HEART IS SET INTO MOTION"

ONCE THAT HAPPENS, THE HUMAN BRAIN CAN ENERGIZE XENON AT WILL!!
AAAA

ha, ha, ha! THIS TIME, I'LL HAVE YOUR HEAD!
wreeeYANG
SHAthumm
WHAT ?!

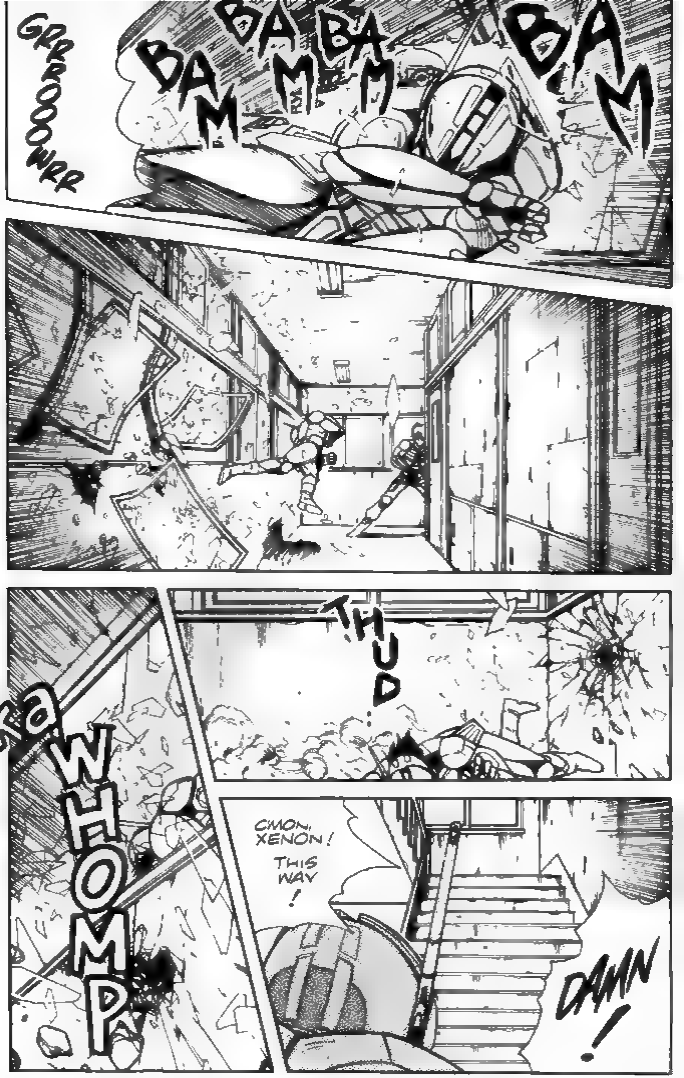
meep
meep
HE FINALLY GOT THE HELMET ON RYUJI!
CAN YOU HEAR ME?!
DON'T SHOUT, GRAMPS!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THIS THING?
IT'S NOT MADE FOR YOU, ASUKA, SO IT MAY BE DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO SYNCHRONIZE, BUT THAT HELMET IS YOUR EXTERNAL SENSOR!
Grrr
HIT YOUR EARS!
EARS?
KLONG!




DAMN!
STOP!
THANK GOD
!?

HA! HA! HA!
YOU'RE NOT MUCH OF A WARRIOR, XENON-- TOTALLY LOSING CONTROL OVER THE DEATH OF YOUR MOTHER!
reeee KLICK
BASTARD!
krsh! krsh! krsh! krsh! krsh! krsh! krsh!
screeech!

SHEEOOM
SHEOOOOOM
OHH!
DAMN! IT'S ALREADY STARTED!
SSSS


GRRROOWR
BA
M
BA
M
BA
M
BA
M
THUD
ka
WHOMP
CMON, XENON! THIS WAY!
DAMN!

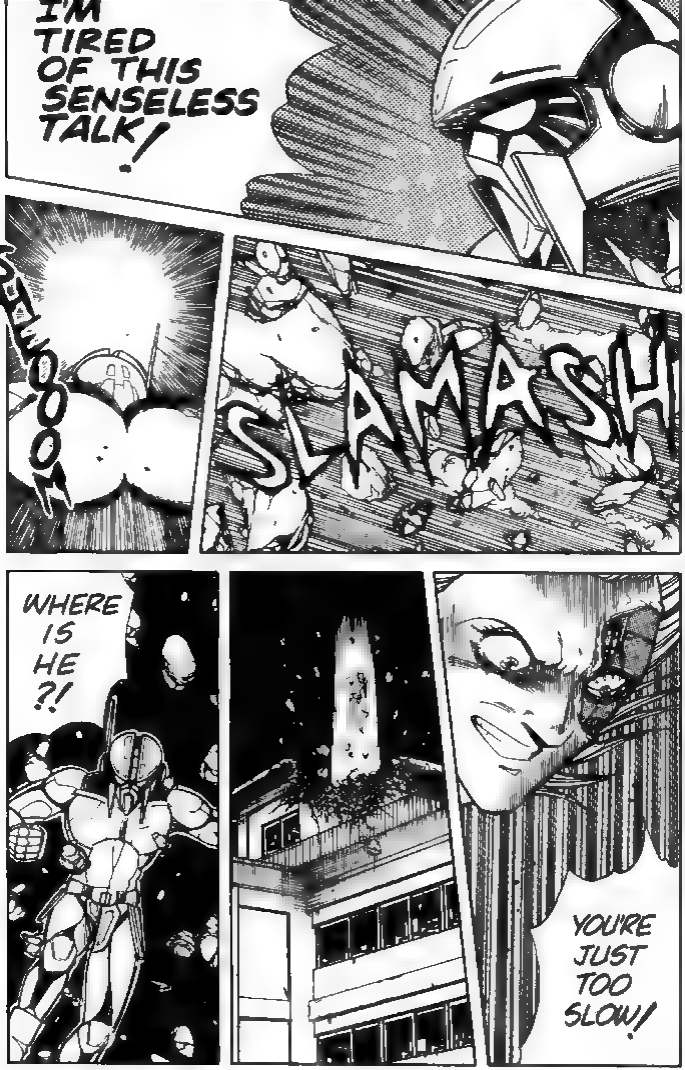
wha..?
SONOKO!!
SONOKO!!
G-GRANDPA..?
..RYUJI?!
PUM POOM
unh
..THE MAN WHO KILLED ASUKA'S MOTHER.. THE ROBOT MAN HE WAS HERE..
zzzzz
...A-AND ASUKA CAME..!!

DON'T WORRY ASUKA IS ALL RIGHT.
huh?
RYUJI. ?!
OH, RYUJI. !
GRAMPS, TAKE CARE OF SONOKO
...I'LL FOLLOW ASUKA !
DANGER! OFF LIMITS TO STUDENTS!--PRINCIPAL
ギク
一般生徒の立入禁止
学校長
ドドドド

HA, HA, HA! YOU'RE TOO SOFT, XENON! I TOLD YOU THAT YOUR EMOTIONS WOULD BE YOUR DOWNFALL!
DAMN! COME OUT, NUMBER 204!
SCREECH
DAMN MMY ARM JUST HOLD UP A LITTLE LONGER, THAT'S ALL!
YOU'RE ANGRY BECAUSE SOMEONE YOU LOVED WAS KILLED, AREN'T YOU?
LOVE!
YOUR WORLD SEEMS FULL OF LOVE!
I WAS BORN IN A GARBAGE PIT! THERE WAS NO LOVE!
AND EVERY DAY ANOTHER PERSON WAS KILLED IN FRONT OF MY EYES!
YOU-YOU'RE SOFT!

OH, SURE--I HAD BROTHERS AND SISTERS! BUT NONE OF US KNEW WHO OUR FATHERS WERE!
MY MOTHER WAS A WHORE!
BUT I STILL LOVED HER...I'D DO ANYTHING FOR HER..
...PIMPING... ROBBERY... ANYTHING.
BIG
BUT NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRIED, I COULDN'T MURDER ANYBODY!
SHE SAID I WAS A SISSY.
JUST BECAUSE I COULDN'T KILL!
SQUEEZE
THE BLOODY SEA PROMISED ME MONEY... PROMISED ME STRENGTH..
...THAT WOULD CHANGE HER MIND.
THAT WOULD MAKE HER LOVE ME.

MY ONLY DREAM WAS TO SLEEP IN HER LAP, TO FEEL HER ARMS EMBRACING.
WHL
SAF WHU
B-BUT... BUT...
AS SOON AS SHE SAW MY BODY, SHE SAID.
AA AIIEEE!
FREAK!!
DAMN
DAMN
ALL THESE ECHOES. WHERE IS HE?!
?!
LEFT
BACK
OVER THERE?!

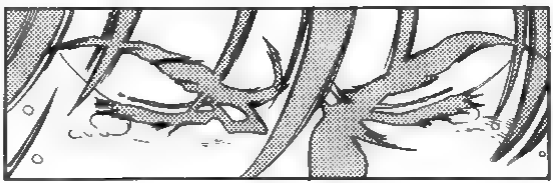

I'M TIRED OF THIS SENSELESS TALK!
SLAMASH
WHERE IS HE?!
YOU'RE JUST TOO SLOW!

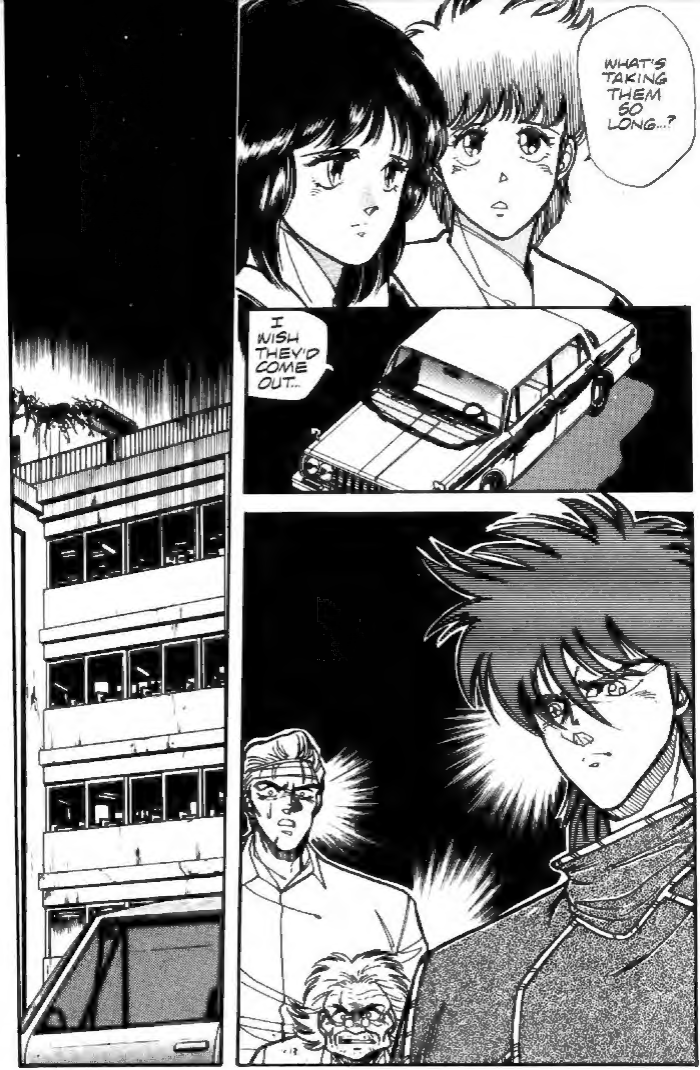
OOH!
I'D NEVER BEEN ABLE TO KILL ANYONE-- NOT EVEN FOR MY MOTHER-- UNTIL THAT DAY.
WHAT?!
I KILLED MY MOTHER WITH MY OWN HANDS!
ONLY BY KILLING THE ONE I LOVED COULD I BECOME A REAL WARRIOR!
DIE, XENON!!
SLICK
BASTARD!!
BASTARD...

SCRUBBED!
HIT DOESN'T MOVE!
WHY NOW?
WHY NOW?!
ASUKA?!
DAMN!
FWOOSH!
AAAAAGH!
KaWHAM!

THWUD
D...
D...
DAMN!
WHERE IS THAT BASTARD ?!
screee
!!
thud
NO !!
I'LL RELEASE YOU FROM YOUR CURSE, NUMBER 204!

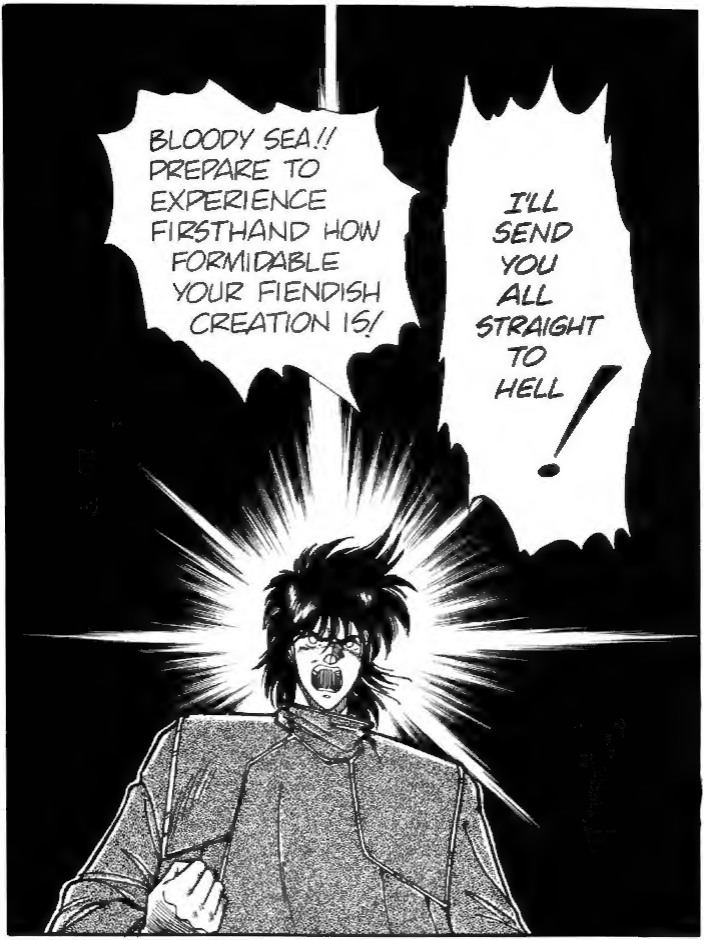
GRAAA!!




WHAT'S TAKING THEM SO LONG...?
I WISH THEY'D COME OUT...

heh, heh, heh...
...YOU BEAT ME... XENON...
...SATISFIED NOW, EVERYONE?
I NEVER EXPECTED MY STUBBORN BODY TO BETRAY ME LIKE THIS...
...UNTIL MY LAST MOMENT... ALWAYS AT THE MERCY OF THE MACHINE...
...REMEMBER... I HAD A NAME... JASON BOLDSARD...
...YOU ARE JUST LIKE ME!

NO. I'M NOT LIKE YOU!
Heh... THAT'S GOOD...
...I HAVE TO SAY GOODBYE NOW, MY BROTHER...
...LISTEN... DON'T SHOW YOUR BODY TO THE ONE YOU LOVE...
...OKAY...?
HOW PITIFUL! IF ONLY I'D NEVER THOUGHT OF PROJECT X...
HE WAS A LOSER WHO SOLD HIMSELF TO THE MACHINE! I'M NOT LIKE HIM!
NO! IT'S NOT PITIFUL!



"YOU WILL BE HAPPY...ASUKA..."

TO BE CONTINUED...